

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 807

By Floyd

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Sergeant Cherilyn Bryant on being named a 2014 Woman of Distinction by the American Lung Association.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Cherilyn Bryant of the Chattanooga Police Department (CPD) will be recognized as a 2014 Woman of Distinction by the American Lung Association at the organization's 29th Annual Women of Distinction Awards Luncheon; and

WHEREAS, this prestigious event honors a number of women who have distinguished themselves through their professional, civic, and volunteer service; the event also benefits the important work of the American Lung Association in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Cherilyn Bryant, or Cheryl to those who know her professionally or Sherry to those who are childhood friends, is a generous person who works tirelessly and gives from her heart; and

WHEREAS, Cherilyn Bryant is a single mother who put her personal wants and dreams aside to raise her wonderful sons, Michael and Terence, and mentor other children, teaching each of them the value of working hard, giving, caring, and having a humble spirit; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Bryant has been an officer with the Chattanooga Police Department for twenty-five years; she served in all areas of the city while in Patrol and has also served in Narcotics, Juveniles/Missing Persons, and undercover Vice Division, as well as a school resource officer in the Hamilton County school system; and

WHEREAS, she has used her position with CPD as a ministry in the field, bridging the gap between the police and the community while “Serving and Protecting”; and

WHEREAS, upon returning to Chattanooga from Tennessee State University, Sergeant Bryant applied for a police position with the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga while continuing her education; a week later she received a letter from the CPD stating that she had been accepted to the Police Academy. She graduated as the only female in her Academy class, and the rest is history some twenty-five years later; and

WHEREAS, although she has a stern hand as a mentor, her heart is even bigger; Sgt. Bryant currently serves on the board at the Bethlehem Center, as band assistant for Howard Marching Band, mentors youth with 100 Black Women, and recently received the NAACP Chief Ralph Cothran Civil Service Officer of the Year Award; and she serves her church as a member of the hospitality committee, wedding ministry, and security team; and

WHEREAS, Cherilyn knows her greatest accomplishment is raising her two “Body Guard” sons as a single mother and keeping the streets from taking them while ensuring that they remain humble, giving, and loving; and

WHEREAS, epitomizing the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, Sergeant Cherilyn Bryant takes her place among the many noble citizens who have earned Tennessee the nickname of “The Volunteer State”; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people such as Sergeant Cherilyn Bryant who use their talents and resources to serve others; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Sergeant Cherilyn Bryant on being named a 2014 Woman of Distinction by the American Lung Association, thank her for all she

has done to make Chattanooga and this State a better place to live and work, and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.